

KROHN–RHODES COMPLEXITY OF BRAUER TYPE SEMIGROUPS

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ABSTRACT. The Krohn–Rhodes complexity of the Brauer type semigroups \mathfrak{B}_n and \mathfrak{A}_n is computed. In three-quarter of the cases the result is the ‘expected’ one: the complexity coincides with the (essential) \mathcal{J} -depth of the respective semigroup. The exception (and perhaps the most interesting case) is the annular semigroup \mathfrak{A}_{2n} of even degree in which case the complexity is the \mathcal{J} -depth minus 1. For the partial versions $P\mathfrak{B}_n$ and $P\mathfrak{A}_n$ it is shown that $c(P\mathfrak{B}_n) = c(\mathfrak{B}_n)$ and $c(P\mathfrak{A}_{2n-1}) = c(\mathfrak{A}_{2n-1})$ for all $n \geq 1$. The computation of $c(P\mathfrak{A}_{2n})$ is left as an open problem.

It follows from the famous Krohn–Rhodes Prime Decomposition Theorem [10] that each finite semigroup S divides an iterated wreath product

$$A_n \wr G_n \wr A_{n-1} \wr \cdots \wr A_1 \wr G_1 \wr A_0$$

where the G_i are groups and the A_i are aperiodic semigroups. The number n of non-trivial group components of the shortest such iterated product is the *group complexity* or *Krohn–Rhodes complexity* of the semigroup S . The question whether this number is algorithmically computable given the semigroup S as input is perhaps **the** most fruitful research problem in finite semigroup theory. To the author’s knowledge, this problem is still open despite the tremendous effort that has been spent on it over the years.

Concerning *classes* of abstract semigroups, the largest pseudovariety which contains semigroups of arbitrarily high complexity and for which the complexity of each member can be computed is $LG \circledast \mathbf{A}$ — this includes **DS** and thus completely regular semigroups (unions of groups). Another result is that the “complexity- $\frac{1}{2}$ ” pseudovarieties $\mathbf{A} * \mathbf{G}$ and $\mathbf{G} * \mathbf{A}$ have decidable membership (the latter being contained in $LG \circledast \mathbf{A}$). On the other hand, the complexity of many naturally occurring *individual* and concrete semigroups is known: these include the semigroup of all transformations of a finite set and the semigroup of all endomorphisms of a finite

2010 *Mathematics Subject Classification.* 20M07, 20M20, 20M17.

Key words and phrases. Krohn–Rhodes complexity, Brauer type semigroup, pseudovariety of finite semigroups.

vector-space [16], as well as the semigroup of all binary relations on a finite set [17]. More recently, Kambites [9] calculated the complexity of the semigroup of all upper triangular matrices over a finite field. The present paper intends to contribute to the latter kind of results. Indeed, we shall present a calculation of the complexity of the Brauer semigroup \mathfrak{B}_n and the annular semigroup \mathfrak{A}_n (these occur originally in representation theory of associative algebras but have recently attracted considerable attention among semigroup theorists). It turns out that the cases of \mathfrak{B}_n and \mathfrak{A}_{2n+1} can be treated in a straightforward fashion by the use of arguments that apply to transformation semigroups and linear semigroups. The case of the annular semigroup \mathfrak{A}_{2n} of even degree is somehow different. Although the problem can be solved by use of the machinery developed by the Rhodes school, the solution requires quite a bit of care and is much less obvious. Actually, the author was not able to compute the complexity $c(\mathfrak{A}_{2n})$ directly. The strategy is rather to look at a certain natural subsemigroup \mathfrak{EA}_{2n} first and calculate the complexity of this subsemigroup. In a second step it is then shown that the complexity of the full semigroup \mathfrak{A}_{2n} does not exceed the complexity of the ‘even’ subsemigroup \mathfrak{EA}_{2n} . It should be mentioned that none of the semigroups \mathfrak{B}_n or \mathfrak{A}_n is contained in $LG \circledast \mathbf{A}$ except for $n = 1$.

The paper is organized as follows. In section 1 we collect all preliminaries on Brauer and annular semigroups as well as the basics of Krohn–Rhodes complexity needed in the sequel. In section 2 the complexity of the Brauer semigroup is computed to be $c(\mathfrak{B}_n) = \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ which is exactly the (essential) \mathcal{J} -depth. It is also shown that the partial Brauer semigroup $P\mathfrak{B}_n$ has the same complexity as the ‘total’ counterpart \mathfrak{B}_n . In section 3 we first treat the annular semigroup of even degree and show that $c(\mathfrak{A}_n) = \frac{n}{2} - 1$. This is the difficult case and is treated with the help of a certain subsemigroup, the *even annular semigroup* \mathfrak{EA}_n . Afterwards the odd degree case is treated which is again, in a sense, standard. Finally, some remarks on the partial versions $P\mathfrak{A}_n$ are given. In the odd case, the complexity is the same as that of their total counterparts while the computation of the complexity in the even case is left as an open problem.

Throughout the paper, all semigroups are assumed to be finite. For background information on (finite) semigroups the reader is referred to the monographs by Almeida [1] and Rhodes and Steinberg [18].

1. PRELIMINARIES

1.1. Brauer type semigroups. Here we present the basic definitions and results concerning Brauer type semigroups. For each positive integer n we are going to define:

- the *partition semigroup* \mathfrak{C}_n ,
- the *Brauer semigroup* \mathfrak{B}_n ,
- the *partial* Brauer semigroup $P\mathfrak{B}_n$,
- the *Jones semigroup* \mathfrak{J}_n ,
- the *annular semigroup* \mathfrak{A}_n ,
- the *partial* annular semigroup $P\mathfrak{A}_n$.

The semigroups \mathfrak{C}_n , \mathfrak{B}_n , \mathfrak{A}_n and \mathfrak{J}_n arise as vector space bases of certain associative algebras which are relevant in representation theory [6, 8, 7]. The semigroup structure and related questions for the above-mentioned semigroups have been studied by several authors, see, for example, [3, 4, 11, 13, 14, 15].

We start with the definition of \mathfrak{C}_n . For each positive integer n let

$$[n] = \{1, \dots, n\}, \quad [n]' = \{1', \dots, n'\}, \quad [n]'' = \{1'', \dots, n''\}$$

be three pairwise disjoint copies of the set of the first n positive integers and put

$$\widetilde{[n]} = [n] \cup [n]'$$

The base set of the partition semigroup \mathfrak{C}_n is the set of all partitions of the set $\widetilde{[n]}$; throughout, we consider a partition of a set and the corresponding equivalence relation on that set as two different views of the same thing and without further mention we freely switch between these views, whenever it seems to be convenient. For $\xi, \eta \in \mathfrak{C}_n$, the product $\xi\eta$ is defined (and computed) in four steps [20]:

- (1) Consider the $'$ -analogue of η : that is, define η' on $[n]' \cup [n]''$ by

$$x' \eta' y' :\Leftrightarrow x \eta y \text{ for all } x, y \in \widetilde{[n]}.$$

- (2) Let $\langle \xi, \eta \rangle$ be the equivalence relation on $\widetilde{[n]} \cup [n]''$ generated by $\xi \cup \eta'$, that is, set $\langle \xi, \eta \rangle := (\xi \cup \eta')^t$ where t denotes the transitive closure.
- (3) Forget all elements having a single prime $'$: that is, set

$$\langle \xi, \eta \rangle^\circ := \langle \xi, \eta \rangle|_{[n] \cup [n]''}.$$

- (4) Replace double primes with single primes to obtain the product $\xi\eta$: that is, set

$$x \xi \eta y :\Leftrightarrow f(x) \langle \xi, \eta \rangle^\circ f(y) \text{ for all } x, y \in \widetilde{[n]}$$

where $f : \widetilde{[n]} \rightarrow [n] \cup [n]''$ is the bijection

$$x \mapsto x, x' \mapsto x'' \text{ for all } x \in [n].$$

This multiplication is associative making \mathfrak{C}_n a semigroup with identity 1 where

$$1 = \{\{k, k'\} \mid k \in [n]\}.$$

The group of units of \mathfrak{C}_n is the symmetric group \mathfrak{S}_n (acting on $[n]$ on the right) with canonical embedding $\mathfrak{S}_n \hookrightarrow \mathfrak{C}_n$ given by

$$\sigma \mapsto \{\{k, (k\sigma)'\} \mid k \in [n]\} \text{ for all } \sigma \in \mathfrak{S}_n.$$

More generally, the semigroup of all (total) transformations \mathfrak{T}_n of $[n]$ acting on the right is also naturally embedded in \mathfrak{C}_n by

$$\phi \mapsto \{\{k'\} \cup k\phi^{-1} \mid k \in [n]\}. \quad (1)$$

If k is not in the image of ϕ then $\{k'\}$ forms by definition a singleton class. The equivalence classes of some $\xi \in \mathfrak{C}_n$ are usually referred to as *blocks*; the *rank* $\text{rk } \xi$ is the number of blocks of ξ whose intersection with $[n]$ as well as with $[n]'$ is not empty — this coincides with the usual notion of rank of a mapping on $[n]$ in case ξ is in the image of the embedding (1). It is known that the rank characterizes the \mathcal{D} -relation in \mathfrak{C}_n [14, 11]: for any $\xi, \eta \in \mathfrak{C}_n$, one has $\xi \mathcal{D} \eta$ if and only if $\text{rk } \xi = \text{rk } \eta$.

The semigroup \mathfrak{C}_n admits a natural inverse involution making it a regular $*$ -semigroup: consider first the permutation $*$ on $\widetilde{[n]}$ that swaps primed with unprimed elements, that is, set

$$k^* = k', (k')^* = k \text{ for all } k \in [n].$$

Then define, for $\xi \in \mathfrak{C}_n$,

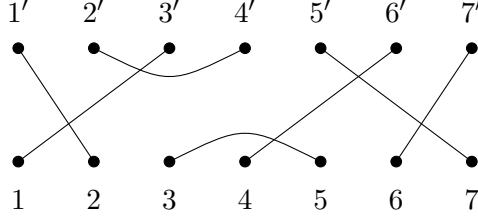
$$x \xi^* y \Leftrightarrow x^* \xi y^* \text{ for all } x, y \in \widetilde{[n]}.$$

That is, ξ^* is obtained from ξ by interchanging in ξ the primed with the unprimed elements. It is easy to see that

$$\xi^{**} = \xi, (\xi\eta)^* = \eta^* \xi^* \text{ and } \xi \xi^* \xi = \xi \text{ for all } \xi, \eta \in \mathfrak{C}_n. \quad (2)$$

The elements of the form $\xi \xi^*$ are called *projections*. They are idempotents (as one readily sees from the last equality in (2)). We note that in the group \mathcal{H} -class of any projection, the involution $*$ coincides with the inverse operation in that group.

The *Brauer semigroup* \mathfrak{B}_n can be conveniently defined as subsemigroup of \mathfrak{C}_n : namely, \mathfrak{B}_n consists of all elements of \mathfrak{C}_n all of whose blocks have size 2. It is useful to think of the elements of \mathfrak{B}_n in terms of *diagrams*. These are pictures like the one in Figure 1.

FIGURE 1. A diagram in \mathfrak{B}_7

The *partial* Brauer semigroup $P\mathfrak{B}_n$ consists of all elements of \mathfrak{C}_n all of whose blocks have size at most 2. The elements of $P\mathfrak{B}_n$ admit a similar interpretation in terms of diagrams. Both semigroups \mathfrak{B}_n and $P\mathfrak{B}_n$ are closed under $*$. In both types of semigroups, the group \mathcal{H} -class of a projection $\xi\xi^*$ of rank t is isomorphic (as a regular $*$ -semigroup) with the symmetric group \mathfrak{S}_t . Let $\xi \in \mathfrak{B}_n$ be of rank t and let

$$\{k_1, l'_1\}, \dots, \{k_t, l'_t\}, \text{ for some } k_i, l_i \in [n],$$

be the blocks of ξ which contain an element of $[n]$ and of $[n]'$. Then $\{k_1, \dots, k_t\}$ and $\{l'_1, \dots, l'_t\}$ is the *domain* $\text{dom } \xi$ respectively *range* $\text{ran } \xi$ of ξ . For any projection ε we obviously have $\text{ran } \varepsilon = (\text{dom } \varepsilon)'$.

The *Jones semigroup* (also called *Temperley–Lieb semigroup*)¹ \mathfrak{J}_n is the subsemigroup of \mathfrak{B}_n consisting of all diagrams that can be drawn in the plane within a rectangle (as in Figure 1) in a way such that any two of its lines have empty intersection. These diagrams are called *planar*. It is well-known and easy to see that \mathfrak{J}_n is aperiodic [12].

Next we define the annular semigroup \mathfrak{A}_n [8]. It will also be realized as a certain subsemigroup of the Brauer semigroup. For this purpose it is convenient to first represent the elements of \mathfrak{B}_n as *annular diagrams*. Consider an annulus A in the complex plane, say $A = \{z \mid 1 < |z| < 2\}$ and identify the elements of $\widetilde{[n]}$ with certain points of the boundary of A via

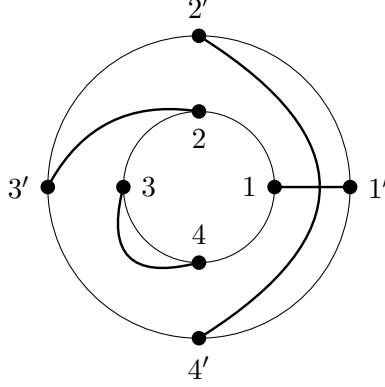
$$k \mapsto e^{\frac{2\pi i(k-1)}{n}} \quad \text{and} \quad k' \mapsto 2e^{\frac{2\pi i(k-1)}{n}} \quad \text{for all } k \in [n].$$

For $\xi \in \mathfrak{B}_n$ take a copy of A and link any $x, y \in \widetilde{[n]}$ with $\{x, y\} \in \xi$ by a path (called *string*) running entirely in A (except for its endpoints). For example, the element $\xi \in \mathfrak{B}_4$ given by

$$\xi = \{\{1, 1'\}, \{2', 4'\}, \{2, 3'\}, \{3, 4\}\}$$

is then represented by the annular diagram in Figure 2. Paths representing

¹Following [12], we use the term *Jones semigroup*.

FIGURE 2. Annular diagram representation of a member of \mathfrak{B}_4

blocks of the form $\{x, y'\}$ [$\{x, y\}$ and $\{x', y'\}$, respectively] for some $x, y \in [n]$ are called *through strings* [*inner* and *outer strings*, respectively]. The *annular semigroup* \mathfrak{A}_n by definition consists of all elements of \mathfrak{B}_n that have a representation as an annular diagram any two of whose strings have empty intersection. One can compose annular diagrams in an obvious way, modelling the multiplication in \mathfrak{B}_n — from this it follows that \mathfrak{A}_n is closed under the multiplication of \mathfrak{B}_n . Clearly, \mathfrak{A}_n is closed under $*$, as well.

Analogously to the partial Brauer semigroup $P\mathfrak{B}_n$, one can also define the *partial annular semigroup* $P\mathfrak{A}_n$ by considering all elements of $P\mathfrak{B}_n$ which admit a representation by an annular diagram in which any two distinct strings have empty intersection. Again each $P\mathfrak{A}_n$ is closed under $*$.

Finally, we fix the following notation: if the semigroup \mathfrak{M} happens to be a monoid then its group of units is denoted by \mathfrak{M}^\times while the *singular part* of \mathfrak{M} , that is, the subsemigroup of all non-invertible elements $\mathfrak{M} \setminus \mathfrak{M}^\times$ is denoted by $\text{Sing}\mathfrak{M}$.

1.2. Krohn–Rhodes complexity. Here we present the basics of Krohn–Rhodes complexity needed in the sequel. A comprehensive treatment of the subject can be found in Part II of the monograph [18]. Throughout, the complexity of a semigroup S is denoted by $c(S)$. A \mathcal{J} -class of a semigroup is *essential* if it contains a non-trivial subgroup. The *depth* of a semigroup is the length n of the longest chain $J_1 > J_2 > \dots > J_n$ of essential \mathcal{J} -classes. The complexity $c(S)$ of a semigroup S can never exceed its depth [18, Theorem 4.9.15].

Lemma 1. *For each semigroup S and for each ideal I of S the inequality $c(S) \leq c(I) + c(S/I)$ holds.*

The latter statement is usually known as the *Ideal Theorem* [18, Theorem 4.9.17]. The next result (due to Allen and Rhodes) can be also found as Proposition 4.12.20 in [18].

Lemma 2. *Let S be a semigroup and let e be an idempotent of S ; then $c(SeS) = c(eSe)$.*

The following result [18, Proposition 4.12.23] is useful for computing the complexity of the full transformation semigroup \mathfrak{T}_n and the full linear semigroup $\mathfrak{M}_n(\mathbb{F}_q)$ over a finite field. In our situation it is helpful for the Brauer semigroup \mathfrak{B}_n and the annular semigroup \mathfrak{A}_{2n+1} of odd degree.

Proposition 3. *Suppose that S is a monoid with non-trivial group of units G such that $S = \langle G, e \rangle$ for some idempotent $e \notin G$ and $SeS \subseteq \langle E(S) \rangle$. Then $c(S) = c(eSe) + 1$.*

According to [18, Definition 4.12.11] a semigroup S is a \mathcal{T}_1 -semigroup if there exists an \mathcal{L} -chain $s_1 \leq_{\mathcal{L}} s_2 \leq_{\mathcal{L}} \dots \leq_{\mathcal{L}} s_n$ of elements of S such that S is generated by s_1, \dots, s_n . The *type II subsemigroup* $\mathbf{K}_G(S)$ of a semigroup S consists of all elements of S that relate to 1 under every relational morphism from S to a group G . Ash's famous theorem [2] (verifying the Rhodes type II conjecture) states that $\mathbf{K}_G(S)$ is the smallest subsemigroup of S that contains all idempotents and is closed under weak conjugation. The combination of Theorems 4.12.14 and 4.12.8 in [18] yields the final preliminary result.

Proposition 4. *For each \mathcal{T}_1 -semigroup S which is not aperiodic, the inequality $c(\mathbf{K}_G(S)) < c(S)$ holds.*

2. THE BRAUER SEMIGROUP \mathfrak{B}_n

It should be mentioned that the full partition semigroup \mathfrak{C}_n has complexity $n - 1$ for each n . Indeed, it has $n - 1$ essential \mathcal{J} -classes hence $c(\mathfrak{C}_n)$ can be at most $n - 1$. On the other hand, the full transformation semigroup \mathfrak{T}_n on n letters embeds into \mathfrak{C}_n and it is a classical result [18, Theorem 4.12.31] that $c(\mathfrak{T}_n) = n - 1$. So $c(\mathfrak{C}_n)$ has to be at least $n - 1$. Of course, the Jones semigroup \mathfrak{J}_n has complexity 0 for each n .

Let us next consider the Brauer semigroup \mathfrak{B}_n . Note that \mathfrak{B}_{2n} as well as \mathfrak{B}_{2n+1} have n essential \mathcal{J} -classes. For each pair $i < j$ with $i, j \in [n]$ define the diagram γ_{ij} as follows:

$$\gamma_{ij} := \{\{i, j\}, \{i', j'\}, \{k, k'\} \mid k \neq i, j\}. \quad (3)$$

Each γ_{ij} is a projection of rank $n - 2$. Proposition 2 in [13] tells us that the singular part of \mathfrak{B}_n is generated by the projections γ_{ij} :

$$\text{Sing}\mathfrak{B}_n = \langle \gamma_{ij} \mid 1 \leq i < j \leq n \rangle. \quad (4)$$

Recall that the group of units of \mathfrak{B}_n is the symmetric group on n letters, denoted \mathfrak{S}_n . Another result to be essential is that \mathfrak{B}_n is generated by its group of units together with some γ_{ij} [11, Theorem 3.1]:

$$\mathfrak{B}_n = \langle \mathfrak{S}_n, \gamma_{ij} \rangle \text{ for all } i < j. \quad (5)$$

Since $\mathfrak{B}_n \gamma_{ij} \mathfrak{B}_n = \text{Sing} \mathfrak{B}_n \subseteq \langle E(\mathfrak{B}_n) \rangle$ and $\mathfrak{B}_{n-2} \cong \gamma_{ij} \mathfrak{B}_n \gamma_{ij}$ Proposition 3 implies:

Proposition 5. *The equality $c(\mathfrak{B}_n) = c(\mathfrak{B}_{n-2}) + 1$ holds for each $n \geq 2$.*

Taking into account that $c(\mathfrak{B}_1) = 0$ and $c(\mathfrak{B}_2) = 1$ we obtain already the main result of this section:

Theorem 6. *The equalities $c(\mathfrak{B}_{2n}) = c(\mathfrak{B}_{2n+1}) = n$ hold for each positive integer n .*

For the partial analogue $P\mathfrak{B}_n$ let $n \geq 2$ and denote by $P\mathfrak{B}_n^{(n-2)}$ the ideal of $P\mathfrak{B}_n$ consisting of all elements of rank at most $n-2$. The Rees quotient $P\mathfrak{B}_n / P\mathfrak{B}_n^{(n-2)}$ is an inverse semigroup and therefore has complexity 1. Since $P\mathfrak{B}_n^{(n-2)} = P\mathfrak{B}_n \gamma_{ij} P\mathfrak{B}_n$ and $\gamma_{ij} P\mathfrak{B}_n \gamma_{ij} \cong P\mathfrak{B}_{n-2}$ and by use of the Ideal Theorem (Lemma 1) and Lemma 2 it follows that $c(P\mathfrak{B}_n) \leq c(P\mathfrak{B}_{n-2}) + 1$ holds for each $n \geq 2$. In other words, going from $P\mathfrak{B}_{n-2}$ to $P\mathfrak{B}_n$, the complexity increases by at most 1. Since $c(P\mathfrak{B}_1) = 0$ and $c(P\mathfrak{B}_2) = 1$ (the former is aperiodic, the latter has only one essential \mathcal{J} -class) it follows by induction that $c(P\mathfrak{B}_{2n}) \leq n$ and $c(P\mathfrak{B}_{2n+1}) \leq n$ for all n . On the other hand, since $c(P\mathfrak{B}_n) \geq c(\mathfrak{B}_n)$ the reverse inequalities also hold. Altogether we have proved:

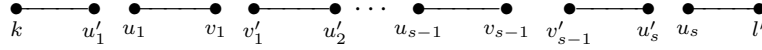
Corollary 7. *The equalities $c(P\mathfrak{B}_n) = c(\mathfrak{B}_n) = \lfloor \frac{n}{2} \rfloor$ hold for each positive integer n .*

3. THE ANNULAR SEMIGROUP \mathfrak{A}_n

3.1. Even degree. This seems to be the most interesting case. It is not possible to apply Proposition 3 here because $\text{Sing} \mathfrak{A}_n$ is not idempotent generated (nor contained in the type II subsemigroup). We shall not calculate the complexity of \mathfrak{A}_n directly but rather study a certain natural subsemigroup — the *even annular semigroup* \mathfrak{EA}_n —, calculate the complexity of the latter and then show that \mathfrak{A}_n has no bigger complexity than \mathfrak{EA}_n .

Throughout this subsection let n be even. Let $\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}_n$ be of rank r and let $a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_r$ and $b'_1 < b'_2 < \dots < b'_r$ be the elements of $\text{dom } \alpha$ and $\text{ran } \alpha$, respectively. Then the numbers a_i are alternately even and odd, and likewise are the numbers b_i . This is because the nodes strictly between a_i and a_{i+1} as well as strictly between b'_i and b'_{i+1} are entirely involved in outer

strings respectively inner strings and hence an even number of nodes must be between a_i and a_{i+1} respectively b'_i and b'_{i+1} . A through string $\{i, j'\}$ of α is *even* if $i - j$ is even, and otherwise it is *odd*. Suppose that $\{a_1, b'_{s+1}\}$ is a through string of α . Then, by the definition of \mathfrak{A}_n , the other through strings of α are exactly the strings $\{a_i, b'_{s+i}\}$ (where the sum $s + i$ has to be taken mod r). It follows that either all through strings of α are even or all are odd. Define the element α to be *even* if all of its through strings are even (or equivalently, if α has no odd through string) — note that the even members of \mathfrak{A}_n coincide with the *oriented diagrams* in [8]. All diagrams of rank 0 are even, by definition. Let $\alpha, \beta \in \mathfrak{A}_n$ and suppose that $\mathbf{s} = \begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \text{---} & \bullet \\ k & & l' \end{smallmatrix}$ is a through string in $\alpha\beta$. By definition of the product in \mathfrak{A}_n there exist a unique number $s \geq 1$ and pairwise distinct $u_1, v_1, u_2, \dots, v_{s-1}, u_s \in [n]$ such that \mathbf{s} is obtained as the concatenation of the strings



where $\mathbf{u} := \begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \text{---} & \bullet \\ k & & u'_1 \end{smallmatrix}$ is a through string of α , $\mathbf{v} := \begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \text{---} & \bullet \\ u_s & & l' \end{smallmatrix}$ is a through string of β , all $\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \text{---} & \bullet \\ u_i & & v_i \end{smallmatrix}$ are inner strings of β and all $\begin{smallmatrix} \bullet & \text{---} & \bullet \\ v'_i & & u'_{i+1} \end{smallmatrix}$ are outer strings of α . It is easy to see that for each outer string $\{i, j\}$ and each inner string $\{g', h'\}$ of any element γ of \mathfrak{A}_n the inequalities $i \not\equiv j \pmod 2$ and $g \not\equiv h \pmod 2$ hold. It follows that $u_i \not\equiv v_i \not\equiv u_{i+1} \pmod 2$ and therefore $u_i \equiv u_{i+1} \pmod 2$ for all i whence $u_1 \equiv u_s \pmod 2$. Consequently, \mathbf{s} is even if and only if \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} are both even or both odd while \mathbf{s} is odd if and only if exactly one of \mathbf{u} and \mathbf{v} is even. In particular, the set \mathfrak{EA}_n of all even members of \mathfrak{A}_n forms a submonoid of \mathfrak{A}_n . Moreover, since each projection is even, each idempotent (being the product of two projections) is also even so that \mathfrak{EA}_n contains all idempotents of \mathfrak{A}_n . A direct inspection shows that each planar diagram $\alpha \in \mathfrak{I}_n$ is also even, whence \mathfrak{I}_n is a submonoid of \mathfrak{EA}_n .

Similarly as in \mathfrak{A}_n and \mathfrak{I}_n , Green's \mathcal{J} -relation in \mathfrak{EA}_n is characterized by the rank: two diagrams of \mathfrak{EA}_n are \mathcal{J} -related if and only if they have the same rank. The argument is as follows: let ε and η be arbitrary projections of rank t with $a_1 < a_2 < \dots < a_t$ the domain of ε and $b'_1 < b'_2 < \dots < b'_t$ the range of η ; define γ to be the element having the same inner strings as ε , the same outer strings as η and the through strings $\{a_1, b'_1\}, \dots, \{a_t, b'_t\}$ in case $a_1 \equiv b_1 \pmod 2$ while in case $a_1 \not\equiv b_1 \pmod 2$ the through strings of γ can be chosen to be $\{a_1, b'_2\}, \{a_2, b'_3\}, \dots, \{a_t, b'_1\}$. Then $\gamma \in \mathfrak{EA}_n$, $\varepsilon = \gamma\gamma^*$ and $\eta = \gamma^*\gamma$.

As far as the group of units \mathfrak{EA}_n^\times of \mathfrak{EA}_n is concerned, we see that the diagram

$$\zeta = \{\{1, 2'\}, \{2, 3'\}, \dots, \{n, 1'\}\} \quad (6)$$

is odd and so definitely does not belong to \mathfrak{EA}_n . On the other hand,

$$\zeta^2 = \{\{1, 3'\}, \{2, 4'\}, \dots, \{n-1, 1'\}, \{n, 2'\}\}$$

is even whence the group of units \mathfrak{EA}_n^\times is cyclic of order $\frac{n}{2}$. More generally, for each (even) $r < n$ the maximal subgroups of the \mathcal{J} -class of all rank- r -elements of \mathfrak{EA}_n is cyclic of order $\frac{r}{2}$.

We are going to define two actions S and T of \mathbb{Z} on \mathfrak{A}_n . The action of S is by automorphisms, but that of T is by translations. For $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ let $S_k, T_k : \mathfrak{A}_n \rightarrow \mathfrak{A}_n$ be defined as follows: αS_k is the diagram obtained from α by replacing each string $\{i, j\}$ [respectively $\{i, j'\}, \{i', j'\}$] by $\{i+k, j+k\}$ [respectively $\{i+k, (j+k)'\}, \{(i+k)', (j+k)'\}$]; αT_k is obtained from α by replacing each string $\{i, j'\}$ [respectively $\{i', j'\}$] by $\{i, (j+k)'\}$ [respectively $\{(i+k)', (j+k)'\}$]. The addition $+$ has to be taken mod n , of course. We call S_k the *shift by k* and T_k the (*outer*) *twist by k* . Note that an outer twist leaves unchanged all inner strings. We could similarly define the inner twist by k but we will not need it.

Shifts and twists can be expressed in terms of the unit element ζ defined in (6). Namely, for each $\alpha \in \mathfrak{A}_n$ and each $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ the following hold:

$$\alpha S_k = \zeta^{-k} \alpha \zeta^k \text{ and } \alpha T_k = \alpha \zeta^k. \quad (7)$$

For later use we note that αS_k is even for every k and αT_k is even for every even k if and only if α itself is even.

In the following we shall show that the singular part of \mathfrak{EA}_n is idempotent generated. In order to simplify notation, we set, for each $i \in [n]$, $\gamma_i := \gamma_{i, i+1}$, that is, γ_i denotes the projection

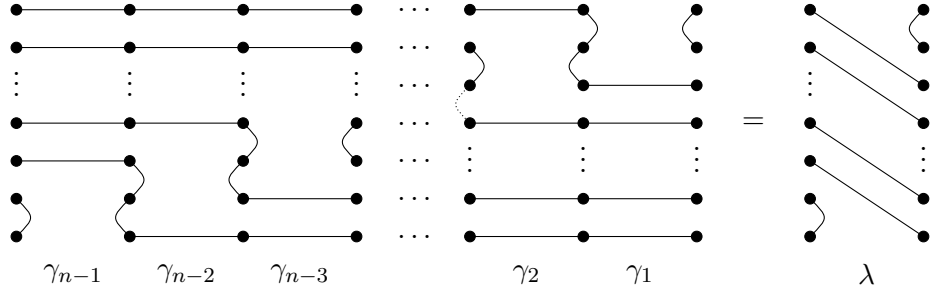
$$\gamma_i = \{\{i, i+1\}, \{i', (i+1)'\}, \{k, k'\} \mid k \neq i, i+1\}.$$

(Addition has to be taken mod n .) More precisely, we intend to show that $\text{Sing} \mathfrak{EA}_n$ is generated by the projections $\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n$. Set $\mathfrak{S} := \langle \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n \rangle$; then obviously $\mathfrak{S} \subseteq \text{Sing} \mathfrak{EA}_n$ and \mathfrak{S} is closed under $*$. Moreover, \mathfrak{S} is closed under $S_{\pm 1}$ and therefore closed under S_k for all $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. This is immediate from the fact that the **set** $\{\gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n\}$ is closed under $S_{\pm 1}$ and that each S_k is an automorphism. Next, we note that

$$\gamma_{n-1} \cdots \gamma_1 = \{\{n-1, n\}, \{1', 2'\}, \{k, (k+2)'\} \mid k = 1, \dots, n-2\} =: \lambda$$

(see Figure 3).

The element λ clearly belongs to \mathfrak{S} , and therefore so does each shifted version λS_k of λ . Let α be a singular element of \mathfrak{A}_n containing the outer

FIGURE 3. The element λ .

string $\{(n-1)', n'\}$. Then a direct calculation shows that

$$\alpha\lambda = \alpha T_2.$$

More generally, if α is an arbitrary singular element of \mathfrak{A}_n then there exists $i \in [n]$ such that the outer string $\{(i-1)', i'\}$ belongs to α . A similar calculation then shows that

$$\alpha \cdot \lambda S_{-(n-i)} = \alpha T_2.$$

As a consequence, $\mathfrak{S}T_2 \subseteq \mathfrak{S}$, and, since $T_{-2} = T_{n-2}$ we infer that \mathfrak{S} is closed under twists T_k for all even k . We are ready for a proof of the mentioned result concerning $\text{Sing}\mathfrak{EA}_n$ and refer to Lemma 2.8 of [8] for an analogous result in the context of annular algebras.

Proposition 8. $\text{Sing}\mathfrak{EA}_n = \langle \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n \rangle$.

Proof. Let $\alpha \in \text{Sing}\mathfrak{EA}_n$ and suppose first that α has non-zero rank, that is, α admits a through string. Then there exists some $k \in \mathbb{Z}$ such that αS_k contains a through string of the form $\{1, j'\}$ for some j . Since α , and therefore also αS_k is even, j must be odd. Then $\alpha S_k T_{-(j-1)}$ is still even but contains the through string $\{1, 1'\}$, whence $\alpha S_k T_{-(j-1)}$ belongs to $\text{Sing}\mathfrak{J}_n$ and therefore, by Lemma 2 in [5], $\alpha S_k T_{-(j-1)} \in \langle \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{n-1} \rangle \subseteq \mathfrak{S}$. Consequently,

$$\alpha \in \mathfrak{S}T_{j-1}S_{-k} \subseteq \mathfrak{S},$$

as required. Finally, each rank-zero element of \mathfrak{A}_n belongs actually to \mathfrak{J}_n . It is sufficient to argue this for each rank-zero projection of \mathfrak{A}_n in which case a straightforward induction argument (on n) applies. Consequently each rank zero element belongs to \mathfrak{S} , again as a consequence of Lemma 2 of [5]. \square

For the following considerations let $n \geq 6$ and let the (planar) projection ε of rank $n - 4$ be defined by

$$\varepsilon := \{\{2, 3\}, \{2', 3'\}, \{n-1, n\}, \{(n-1)', n'\}, \{k, k'\} \mid k \neq 2, 3, n-1, n\}. \quad (8)$$

The following subsemigroup of \mathfrak{EA}_n will play a crucial role:

$$\mathfrak{EA}'_n := \langle \mathfrak{EA}_n^\times, \gamma_{n-1}, \gamma_n \gamma_{n-1}, \varepsilon \rangle.$$

First we notice that

$$\gamma_{n-1} \gamma_n \gamma_{n-1} = \gamma_{n-1}.$$

Consequently,

$$\gamma_{n-1} \mathcal{L} \gamma_n \gamma_{n-1} = (\gamma_n \gamma_{n-1})^2. \quad (9)$$

Since $\gamma_{n-1} > \varepsilon$ it follows that \mathfrak{EA}'_n is a \mathcal{T}_1 -semigroup. By Proposition 4 we obtain:

Corollary 9. *For each even $n \geq 6$ the inequality $c(K_G(\mathfrak{EA}'_n)) < c(\mathfrak{EA}'_n)$ holds.*

The group of units \mathfrak{EA}_n^\times of \mathfrak{EA}_n consists of the powers of ζ^2 , that is,

$$\mathfrak{EA}_n^\times = \{\zeta^2, \zeta^4, \dots, \zeta^{n-2}, 1\}.$$

Next, we observe that

$$\zeta^{-2} \gamma_{n-1} \zeta^2 = \gamma_1, \zeta^{-4} \gamma_{n-1} \zeta^4 = \gamma_3, \dots, \zeta^{-(n-2)} \gamma_{n-1} \zeta^{n-2} = \gamma_{n-3}.$$

It follows that

$$\gamma_i \in \mathfrak{EA}'_n \text{ for each odd } i. \quad (10)$$

The same argument applied to $\gamma_n \gamma_{n-1}$ instead of γ_{n-1} implies that

$$\gamma_{i+1} \gamma_i \in \mathfrak{EA}'_n \text{ for each odd } i. \quad (11)$$

Next we show that \mathfrak{EA}_{n-2} can be embedded into the idempotent generated subsemigroup $\langle E(\mathfrak{EA}'_n) \rangle$ of \mathfrak{EA}'_n . First of all, there is an obvious embedding $\mathfrak{EA}_{n-2} \hookrightarrow \mathfrak{EA}_n$, namely

$$\alpha \mapsto \alpha \cup \{\{n-1, n\}, \{(n-1)', n'\}\}$$

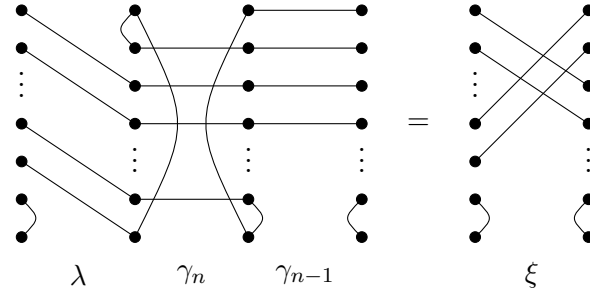
the image of which is exactly the local submonoid $\gamma_{n-1} \mathfrak{EA}_n \gamma_{n-1}$. Hence it suffices to show that the latter is contained in $\langle E(\mathfrak{EA}'_n) \rangle$. The group of units of $\gamma_{n-1} \mathfrak{EA}_n \gamma_{n-1}$ is generated by the diagram

$$\xi := \{\{1, 3'\}, \{2, 4'\}, \dots, \{n-3, 1'\}, \{n-2, 2'\}, \{n-1, n\}, \{(n-1)', n'\}\}$$

and it is not hard to see that

$$\xi = \lambda(\gamma_n \gamma_{n-1}) = \gamma_{n-1} (\gamma_{n-2} \gamma_{n-3}) \cdots (\gamma_2 \gamma_1) (\gamma_n \gamma_{n-1})$$

(see Figure 4). Therefore, the element ξ belongs to $\langle E(\mathfrak{EA}'_n) \rangle$ by (9) and (11) so that the group of units of $\gamma_{n-1} \mathfrak{EA}_n \gamma_{n-1}$ is contained in $\langle E(\mathfrak{EA}'_n) \rangle$.

FIGURE 4. The element ξ .

It remains to show that the singular part of $\gamma_{n-1}\mathfrak{EA}_n\gamma_{n-1}$ is contained in $\langle E(\mathfrak{EA}'_n) \rangle$. First of all, the projections

$$\gamma'_1 := \gamma_1\gamma_{n-1}, \gamma'_3 := \gamma_3\gamma_{n-1}, \dots, \gamma'_{n-3} := \gamma_{n-3}\gamma_{n-1}$$

are all contained in $E(\mathfrak{EA}'_n)$ by (10). We note that $\xi^{\frac{n-2}{2}} = \gamma_{n-1}$ (the identity of the local monoid) and therefore $\xi^* = \xi^{\frac{n-4}{2}}$ is also contained in $\langle E(\mathfrak{EA}'_n) \rangle$. Consequently, the projections

$$\gamma'_2 := \varepsilon, \gamma'_4 := \xi^* \varepsilon \xi, \dots, \gamma'_{n-2} := (\xi^*)^{\frac{n-4}{2}} \varepsilon \xi^{\frac{n-4}{2}}$$

are also contained in $\langle E(\mathfrak{EA}'_n) \rangle$. But by Proposition 8, applied to $\mathfrak{EA}_{n-2} \cong \gamma_{n-1}\mathfrak{EA}_n\gamma_{n-1}$ the singular part of that monoid is generated by the $n-2$ projections $\gamma'_1, \dots, \gamma'_{n-2}$. We have thus proved the following:

Lemma 10. *For each even $n \geq 6$, \mathfrak{EA}_{n-2} is isomorphic to a subsemigroup of $\langle E(\mathfrak{EA}'_n) \rangle$.*

In combination with Corollary 9 we are able to formulate the next (crucial) statement.

Proposition 11. *For each even $n \geq 6$ the inequality $c(\mathfrak{EA}_{n-2}) < c(\mathfrak{EA}_n)$ holds.*

Proof. This follows from

$$\begin{aligned} c(\mathfrak{EA}_{n-2}) &\leq c(\langle E(\mathfrak{EA}'_n) \rangle) && \text{by Lemma 10} \\ &\leq c(\mathbf{K}_G(\mathfrak{EA}'_n)) \\ &< c(\mathfrak{EA}'_n) && \text{by Corollary 9} \\ &\leq c(\mathfrak{EA}_n). \end{aligned}$$

□

It is straightforward that $c(\mathfrak{EA}_2) = 0$; in \mathfrak{EA}_4 the only essential \mathcal{J} -class is the set of all rank 4 elements hence $c(\mathfrak{EA}_4) = 1$. For each $n \in \mathbb{N}$ we have that $c(\mathfrak{EA}_{2n}) \leq c(\mathfrak{EA}_{2n-2}) + 1$ because the number of essential \mathcal{J} -classes is increased exactly by 1 when going from \mathfrak{EA}_{2n-2} to \mathfrak{EA}_{2n} . This, in combination with Proposition 11, then gives $c(\mathfrak{EA}_{2n}) = c(\mathfrak{EA}_{2n-2}) + 1$ for all $n \geq 1$. By induction we get:

Theorem 12. *The equality $c(\mathfrak{EA}_{2n}) = n - 1$ holds for each positive integer n .*

An immediate consequence is that $c(\mathfrak{A}_{2n}) \geq n - 1$ for all positive integers. On the other hand, since the depth of \mathfrak{A}_{2n} is n we also have $c(\mathfrak{A}_{2n}) \leq n$ for all n . In order to determine the exact value we need to look at small values of n . Clearly, $c(\mathfrak{A}_2) = 1$ since \mathfrak{A}_2 has exactly one essential \mathcal{J} -class. It turns out that the crucial point is the value $c(\mathfrak{A}_4)$. Although \mathfrak{A}_4 has two essential \mathcal{J} -classes its complexity is only 1.

Lemma 13. $c(\mathfrak{A}_4) = 1$.

Proof. It suffices to show that the type II subsemigroup $\mathbf{K}_G(\mathfrak{A}_4)$ is aperiodic. Define relations $\tau_1 : \mathfrak{A}_4 \rightarrow \mathfrak{A}_4^\times$ and $\tau_2 : \mathfrak{A}_4 \rightarrow \{-1, 1\}$ as follows:

$$x\tau_1 = \begin{cases} x & \text{if } x \in \mathfrak{A}_4^\times, \\ \mathfrak{A}_4^\times & \text{if } x \notin \mathfrak{A}_4^\times \end{cases}$$

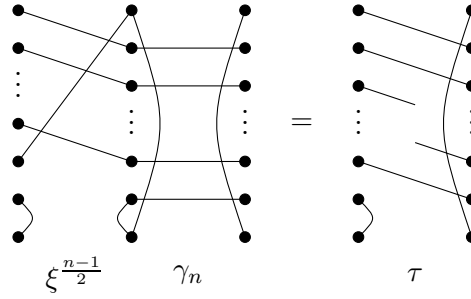
and

$$x\tau_2 = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{if } \text{rk } x \geq 2 \text{ and } x \text{ is odd,} \\ 1 & \text{if } \text{rk } x \geq 2 \text{ and } x \text{ is even,} \\ \{-1, 1\} & \text{if } \text{rk } x = 0. \end{cases}$$

It is easily checked that τ_1 and τ_2 are relational morphisms. Let $\tau = \tau_1 \times \tau_2$; then $1\tau^{-1} = \text{Sing}\mathfrak{EA}_4 \cup \{1\}$. Since $\text{Sing}\mathfrak{EA}_4$ is idempotent generated we infer that $\mathbf{K}_G(\mathfrak{A}_4) = \text{Sing}\mathfrak{EA}_4 \cup \{1\}$ and the latter is aperiodic. \square

It is worth to point out that the preceding Lemma is also a consequence of Tilson's 2 \mathcal{J} -class theorem [18, Theorem 4.15.2]. As in the case of the even annular semigroup, we have $c(\mathfrak{A}_{2n}) \leq c(\mathfrak{A}_{2n-2}) + 1$ since the former semigroup has only one more essential \mathcal{J} -class than the latter. This, in combination with $c(\mathfrak{A}_4) = 1$ and $c(\mathfrak{A}_{2n}) \geq n - 1$ for all n then leads to the main result in this subsection.

Theorem 14. *The equality $c(\mathfrak{A}_{2n}) = n - 1$ holds for each positive integer n .*

FIGURE 5. The element τ .

3.2. Odd degree. Throughout this subsection let n be odd. This case is easier since the singular part $\text{Sing}\mathfrak{A}_n$ is idempotent generated. An analogous statement in the context of annular algebras has been mentioned without proof in [8, Remark 2.9]. We retain the notation of the preceding subsection.

Proposition 15. *For each odd positive integer n , $\text{Sing}\mathfrak{A}_n = \langle \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n \rangle$.*

Proof. The proof is similar to that of Proposition 8; let $\mathfrak{S} := \langle \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_n \rangle$. Once again, \mathfrak{S} is closed under all shifts S_k . As in the case for even n , for

$$\xi = \gamma_{n-1}\gamma_{n-2} \cdots \gamma_1\gamma_n\gamma_{n-1}$$

we obtain

$$\xi = \{\{1, 3'\}, \{2, 4'\}, \dots, \{n-3, 1'\}, \{n-2, 2'\}, \{n-1, n\}, \{(n-1)', n'\}\}$$

(see Figure 4). Thus $\xi|_{[n-2]}$ realizes the cyclic permutation on $[n-2]$ given by $x \mapsto x+2 \pmod{n-2}$. Since $n-2$ is odd, this permutation has order $n-2$ and so ξ generates the group \mathcal{H} -class of γ_{n-1} . More specifically,

$$\xi^{\frac{n-1}{2}} = \{\{1, 2'\}, \{2, 3'\} \dots, \{n-2, 1'\}, \{n-1, n\}, \{(n-1)', n'\}\}.$$

It follows that

$$\tau := \xi^{\frac{n-1}{2}} \gamma_n = \{\{1, 2'\}, \{2, 3'\} \dots, \{n-2, (n-1)'\}, \{n-1, n\}, \{1', n'\}\}$$

(see Figure 5), and τ belongs to \mathfrak{S} . Suppose now that α is a singular element of \mathfrak{A}_n containing the outer string $\{(n-1)', n'\}$. Then $\alpha\tau = \alpha T_1$. More generally, if α is an arbitrary singular element of \mathfrak{A}_n then it contains the outer string $\{(i-1)', i'\}$ for some i . A direct calculation shows that

$$\alpha \cdot \tau S_{-(n-i)} = \alpha T_1.$$

As a consequence, $\mathfrak{S}T_1 \subseteq \mathfrak{S}$. Since $T_{-1} = T_{n-1}$, \mathfrak{S} is also closed under T_{-1} . Altogether, \mathfrak{S} is closed under twists T_k for **each** $k \in \mathbb{Z}$. Let now α be an arbitrary element of $\text{Sing}\mathfrak{A}_n$. Then there exist integers k, ℓ such that

$\alpha S_k T_\ell$ contains the through string $\{1, 1'\}$. But then $\alpha S_k T_\ell$ is planar and by Lemma 2 in [5] $\alpha S_k T_\ell \in \langle \gamma_1, \dots, \gamma_{n-1} \rangle \subseteq \mathfrak{S}$ so that

$$\alpha \in \mathfrak{S} T_{-\ell} S_{-k} \subseteq \mathfrak{S}.$$

Altogether we have obtained $\text{Sing} \mathfrak{A}_n \subseteq \mathfrak{S}$. \square

Since each γ_i is contained in $\langle \mathfrak{A}_n^\times, \gamma_{n-1} \rangle$ it also follows that $\mathfrak{A}_n = \langle \mathfrak{A}_n^\times, \gamma_{n-1} \rangle$ and we may apply Proposition 3.

Proposition 16. *The equality $c(\mathfrak{A}_{2n+1}) = c(\mathfrak{A}_{2n-1}) + 1$ holds for each positive integer n .*

Proof. We apply Proposition 3 to $S = \mathfrak{A}_{2n+1}$ and $e = \gamma_{n-1}$. Since $\mathfrak{A}_{2n-1} \cong \gamma_{n-1} \mathfrak{A}_{2n+1} \gamma_{n-1}$ we obtain $c(\mathfrak{A}_{2n+1}) = c(\mathfrak{A}_{2n-1}) + 1$. \square

Since $c(\mathfrak{A}_1) = 0$ we get by induction:

Theorem 17. *The equality $c(\mathfrak{A}_{2n-1}) = n - 1$ holds for each positive integer n .*

3.3. The partial annular semigroup $P\mathfrak{A}_n$. We are going to treat the partial version $P\mathfrak{A}_n$ of \mathfrak{A}_n . First of all we clearly have

$$c(P\mathfrak{A}_n) \geq c(\mathfrak{A}_n) \text{ for each positive integer } n. \quad (12)$$

The next arguments are analogous to the corresponding ones in the context of the Brauer semigroups. Let $P\mathfrak{A}_n^{(n-2)}$ be the ideal of $P\mathfrak{A}_n$ consisting of all elements of rank at most $n - 2$. The Rees quotient $P\mathfrak{A}_n / P\mathfrak{A}_n^{(n-2)}$ is an inverse semigroup whence its complexity is 1. The Ideal Theorem then implies

$$c(P\mathfrak{A}_n) \leq c(P\mathfrak{A}_n^{(n-2)}) + 1.$$

Moreover, since $P\mathfrak{A}_n^{(n-2)} \cong P\mathfrak{A}_n \gamma_1 P\mathfrak{A}_n$ and $P\mathfrak{A}_{(n-2)} \cong \gamma_1 P\mathfrak{A}_n \gamma_1$ Lemma 2 implies

$$c(P\mathfrak{A}_n) \leq c(P\mathfrak{A}_{n-2}) + 1 \quad (13)$$

for all $n \geq 2$. Since $c(P\mathfrak{A}_1) = 0$, in combination with (12) and Theorem 17 this yields:

Theorem 18. *The equalities $c(P\mathfrak{A}_{2n-1}) = c(\mathfrak{A}_{2n-1}) = n - 1$ hold for each positive integer n .*

The even case is again more difficult. The results obtained so far imply that $n - 1 \leq c(P\mathfrak{A}_{2n}) \leq n$ for all n . The complexity of $P\mathfrak{A}_2$ is of course equal to 1. The author does not know whether $c(P\mathfrak{A}_4)$ equals 1 or 2. The same argument as for \mathfrak{A}_4 in order to show that $c(P\mathfrak{A}_4) = 1$ cannot be applied since the type II subsemigroup $K_G(P\mathfrak{A}_4)$ is not aperiodic. In particular,

$P\mathfrak{A}_4$ is not contained in $\mathbf{A} * \mathbf{G}$. It is easy to see that $P\mathfrak{A}_4$ is neither contained in $\mathbf{G} * \mathbf{A}$.

That $\mathbf{K} := \mathbf{K}_{\mathbf{G}}(P\mathfrak{A}_4)$ is not aperiodic can be seen as follows. The even diagrams $\overline{\bowtie}$ and \bowtie belong to \mathbf{K} (since they are in $\mathfrak{E}\mathfrak{A}_4$). Conjugation of the former element by $\overline{\vdash}$ shows that $\overline{\vdash}$ is in \mathbf{K} . Since \mathbf{K} is closed under shifts, $\overline{\vdash}$ is in \mathbf{K} . For symmetry reasons, also \vdash is in \mathbf{K} . The product $\overline{\vdash} \bowtie$ is equal to \bowtie which is a non-idempotent member of the group \mathcal{H} -class of the idempotent \bowtie and is contained in \mathbf{K} .

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